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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 388  
By Sharp

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Catherine Neely, of Chattanooga, on being inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, after a rigorous selection process each year, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame chooses an elite group of persons to be inducted into their prestigious honorary society; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2000, longtime East Ridge High School volleyball and basketball coach, Catherine Neely, is to be inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the only person being inducted with a high school coaching background; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Neely is also one of two southeastern Tennessee natives in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2000; and

WHEREAS, having begun coaching at East Ridge in 1965, Catherine Neely has not taught at any other school since her graduation from the University of Chattanooga; and

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WHEREAS, during her illustrious tenure at East Ridge, Ms. Neely has led the volleyball Lady Pioneers to one state title, two runner-up finishes, and seven state-tournament appearances; and

WHEREAS, closing in on the 1,000-win mark in volleyball at East Ridge, a record attained by only two other people in high school, she currently has 958 victories, a standard which places her among the top five all-time in that category in the country; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame and the National High School Sports Hall of Fame, Ms. Neely has been named the "Chattanooga Volleyball Coach of the Year" ten times; and

WHEREAS, she has been known as "a character builder," "a counselor," as well as being "a tremendous person and coach"; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure, Catherine Neely has coached several daughters and their mothers, all of whom have funny and sweet stories to tell of days-gone-by with "Coach"; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely has been quoted as saying, "I think I've told every team I've ever coached, 'You may not remember me later in life, but what I want you to remember is to always try to be the best you can be, as a player and as a person'"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend Coach Neely for her exemplary contributions to Tennessee high school athletics and to the countless students whom she has served as mentor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Coach Catherine Neely on being inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame on March 3, 2000, and wish her much continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.